

XX.—*Notes on Woodpeckers*.—No. VI. *On the Genus Miglyptes*. By EDWARD HARGITT, F.Z.S.

ALTHOUGH only four species of this genus are known, confined to the Indo-Malayan subregion and the Burmese countries, there has been great confusion in their synonymy, and I have endeavoured in the present paper to show the characters of all these four species and to disentangle their somewhat complicated literature. The material upon which this paper is based is contained in the collections of the British and Leyden Museums, as well as in my own collection and that of Captain Wardlaw Ramsay.

Key to the Species.

- a. Mantle and upper back barred.
 - a'. Lower back and rump creamy white.
 - a''. Centre of breast and abdomen uniform black. *tristis*.
 - b''. Breast and abdomen with fulvous cross bars. *grammithorax*.
 - b'. Lower back and rump barred like the mantle. *tukki*.
- b. Mantle and upper back uniform black; rump creamy white; breast and abdomen uniform black *jugularis*.

1. MIGLYPTES TRISTIS.

Picus tristis, Horsf. Trans. Linn. Soc. xiii. p. 177 (1822); Giebel (pt.), Thes. Orn. p. 183 (1876).

Picus poicilolophus, Temm. Pl. Col. iv. pl. cxcvii. fig. 1 (1823); Wagler (pt.), Syst. Av. sp. 68 (1827); Cuvier, Règn. Anim. 1829, p. 451.

Meiglyptes poicilophus, Swains. Classif. B. ii. p. 309 (1837).

Meiglyptes tristis, Gray, List Gen. 1840, p. 55; id. Gen. B. ii. p. 447 (1846); Blyth (pt.), Cat. B. Mus. As. Soc. 1849, p. 60; Bp. (pt.) Consp. Gen. Av. i. p. 112 (1850); id. Consp. Volucr. Zygod. p. 9 (1854); Reichenb. (pt.) Handb. Scans. Picinæ, p. 402, pls. delvii. figs. 4370, 4371 (1854); Horsf. & Moore (pt.), Cat. B. Mus. E.I. Co. ii. p. 668 (1856-58); Gray, List Pict. Brit. Mus. p. 123 (1868); id. Hand-l. B. ii. p. 203. no. 8838 (1870); Nicholson, Ibis, 1879, p. 164; id. op. cit. 1881, p. 141.

Phaiopicos tristis, Mahl. N. Classif. Mém. Acad. Metz, 1848-49, p. 338.

Phaiopicus tristis, Malh. Monogr. Picid. ii. p. 10, pl. xlviii. figs. 1, 2 (1862).

Picus tristis, var. *a*, Sundev. Consp. Av. Picin. p. 91 (1866).

Miglyptes tristis, Hume, Str. F. 1879, p. 497 (note).

Adult male. Upper and middle back, scapulars, and wing-coverts black, narrowly barred with buffy white; bastard-wing and primary-coverts black, spotted with buffy white; quills black, spotted with buffy white upon both webs, the innermost being barred with the same across both webs; shafts black; lower back and rump buffy white, the former with a few dusky cross-markings; upper tail-coverts black, narrowly barred with buffy white; tail black, with buffy white spots upon both webs; shafts black; lores, entire head and crest, sides of the neck, chin, and throat black, finely vermiculated with buffy white; a small red malar patch; under surface of the body black, the sides of the body, flanks, and thighs barred with buffy white; under tail-coverts black, narrowly barred with buffy white; under wing-coverts and axillaries buffy white. Total length 6 inches, culmen 0·85, wing 3·7, tail 1·95, tarsus 0·7; toes (without claws)—outer anterior 0·6, outer posterior 0·55, inner anterior 0·4, inner posterior 0·28.

Adult female. Resembling the adult male, but wanting the red malar patch. Total length 5·8 inches, culmen 0·75, wing 3·6, tail 1·7, tarsus 0·65.

This species (the types of which, procured by Horsfield, are in the British Museum) is confined exclusively to the island of Java, whence specimens have been forwarded by Messrs. E. C. Buxton and H. O. Forbes. It is apparently a rare bird, or, perhaps, one difficult to obtain, as but few examples are to be found in museums. It may at once be distinguished from *M. grammithorax* of Malherbe, with which it has often been confounded, by its uniform black breast and abdomen. When Lord Walden published his paper "On a Collection of Birds from Northern Borneo"

(‘Ibis,’ 1872), it appears to me that he had not seen the true *M. tristis* of Horsfield from Java, and that he considered the dark-breasted birds received by him from Simunjon and Banjermassing to be referable to that species. Lord Walden was certainly right in regarding these specimens as immature; but the slightly darker underparts exhibited in the immature of *M. grammithorax* are totally distinct from the entirely black breast and abdomen possessed by the Javan bird. Mr. F. Nicholson (‘Ibis,’ 1879, p. 164) has, in my opinion, clearly shown that *M. tristis*, from Java, and *M. grammithorax*, inhabiting Southern Tenasserim, the Malayan peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo, are both good and valid species. My descriptions are taken from a pair of birds in the Leyden Museum.

2. MIGLYPTES GRAMMITHORAX.

Picus poecilolophus (non Temm.), Less. Traité, p. 221 (1831).

Hemicircus tristis, Eytan, P. Z. S. 1839, p. 106.

Meiglyptes tristis (pt.), Blyth, Cat. B. Mus. As. Soc. p. 60 (1849); Bp. Consp. Gen. Av. i. p. 112 (1850); id. Consp. Volucr. Zygod. p. 9 (1854); Reichenb. Handb. Scans. Picinæ, p. 402, pls. delvii. figs. 4370, 4371 (1854).

Meiglyptes tristis (non Horsf.), Wald. Ibis, 1872, p. 365; Salvad. Ucc. Born. p. 56 (1874); Hume, Str. F. 1874, p. 471; id. op. cit. 1875, p. 324; Blyth & Wald. B. Burm. p. 77 (1875); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1875, p. 103; id. Ibis, 1876, p. 36; Tweedd. op. cit. 1877, p. 290; Brügg. Abhandl. nat. Ver. Bremen, v. p. 455 (1877); Hume & Davison, Str. F. 1878, vi. pp. 131 and 501; Hume, op. cit. 1879, p. 52; Sharpe, Ibis, 1879, p. 243; Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genov. xiv. p. 184 (1879); Kelham, Ibis, 1881, p. 388; Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1881, p. 792; Nicholson, Ibis, 1882, p. 55; Salvin, Cat. Strickl. Coll. p. 402 (1882); Müller, Orn. Salanga, p. 72 (1882).

Phaiopicus grammithorax, Mahl. Monogr. Picid. ii. p. 12, pl. xlviii. figs. 4, 5 (1862).

Picus tristis, var. *b*, Sundev. Consp. Av. Picin. p. 92 (1866).

Meiglyptes grammithorax, Gray, List Picid. Brit. Mus. p. 124 (1868); id. Hand-l. B. ii. p. 203. no. 8839 (1870); Oates, B. Brit. Burm. ii. p. 59 (1883).

Miglyptes tristis (non Horsf.), Hume, Str. F. 1879, p. 87.

Miglyptes grammithorax, Hume, Str. F. 1879, p. 497 (note).

Adult male. Mantle and scapulars black, narrowly barred with buffy white; wing-coverts black, barred and spotted with buffy white, these markings having an irregular and broken appearance; bastard-wing black, spotted with white; edge of wing buffy white; primary-coverts black; quills black, spotted upon both webs with buffy white, the innermost barred across both webs with the same; shafts black; lower back and rump buffy white; upper tail-coverts black, narrowly barred with buffy white; tail-feathers black, spotted with buffy white upon both webs, the dwarf one having the tip white and the spots almost forming a bar; shafts black; lores, space round the eye, and chin buff; entire head, neck, and chest finely vermiculated with black and buffy white (on the face more of a buff), these markings being very fine upon the face and throat, becoming broader lower down, the whole presenting a grey appearance; a dull red malar patch; underparts more broadly barred with black and buffy white than the chest; a uniform stripe of dusky brown running down the middle of the abdomen; under tail-coverts resembling the under surface of the body, but the black markings more crescent-shaped; under wing-coverts and axillaries uniform buffy white. Total length 6 inches, culmen 0·75, wing 3·55, tail 1·75, tarsus 0·7; toes (without claws)—outer anterior 0·52, outer posterior 0·55, inner anterior 0·35, inner posterior 0·22.

Adult female. Differs from the adult male in the absence of the red malar patch. Total length 5·8 inches, culmen 0·75, wing 3·47, tail 1·65, tarsus 0·7. Mr. Davison gives the soft parts as follows:—"Legs and feet dirty, dingy, or glaucous green; claws plumbeous; bill black; edge of eyelids black; irides in about half the specimens of each sex deep brown, in the other half dull red."

Immature male. Differing from the adult in having the black portions of the plumage less intense, and the light portions buff or pale brown; malar patch dull red; the stripe down the middle of the abdomen dusky brown. (Mount Ophir, Malacca: August 14th.)

Immature female. Resembling the immature male, but wanting the red malar patch. (Mount Ophir, Malacca: August 14th.)

The descriptions of the immature birds are taken from specimens in the collection of Capt. Wardlaw Ramsay. The female in the brown or young stage is assuming the adult grey plumage, by moult, the change commencing on the head. The soft parts are given as follows:—"Iris dark lake, bill black, legs greenish" (*R. G. W. R.*). The male, shot by the same naturalist on the same date, is still in the brown stage; the soft parts are given as follows:—"Iris dark brown, bill black, legs greenish" (*R. G. W. R.*).

Malherbe was the first author to recognize the distinctness of this species from *M. tristis* of Java; and it is surprising to find that since the publication of Malherbe's description of *M. grammithorax* so many naturalists should have persisted in calling the Malaccan bird *M. tristis*. This can only be accounted for by the rarity of *M. tristis* for comparison. Malherbe's species may easily be distinguished from the Javan bird by its fulvous-barred underparts. Mr. Davison obtained it in the southern portion of Tenasserim, and the Hume collection contains specimens from Hankachin and Bankasoon: it is found throughout the Malayan peninsula; also in the island of Salanga (*Müller*); and Messrs. Wallace and H. O. Forbes procured examples in Sumatra; it likewise forms part of most collections sent from Borneo, where it would appear to be tolerably plentiful.

3. MIGLYPTES TUKKI.

Picus tukki, Less. Rev. Zool. 1839, p. 167.

Hemicercus brunneus, Eyton, P. Z. S. 1839, p. 106.

Picus luridus, Nitzsch, Pteryl. p. 137 (1840).

Meiglyptes brunneus, Hartl. Syst. Verz. Mus. Hamb.

p. 93 (1844); Gray, Gen. B. ii. p. 447 (1846); Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av. i. p. 113 (1850); Ilorsf. & Moore, Cat. B. Mus. E.I. Co. ii. p. 668, no. 976 (1856-58); Selat. P. Z. S. 1863, p. 210; Gray, List Pict. Brit. Mus. p. 125 (1868); id. Hand-l. B. ii. p. 293, no. 8842 (1870); Salvin, Cat. Strickl. Coll. p. 402 (1882).

Meiglyptes fuscus, Peale, U.S. Expl. Exped. viii. p. 131, pl. xxxvi. fig. 1 (1848).

Phaiopicos pectoralis (non Latham), Malh. N. Classif. Mém. Acad. Metz, 1848-49, p. 338.

Meiglyptes pectoralis (non Lath.), Blyth, Cat. B. Mus. As. Soc. p. 60 (1849); Bp. Consp. Volucr. Zygod. p. 9 (1854); Reichenb. Handb. Scans. Picinæ, p. 402, sp. 938, pl. dclvii. fig. 4372 (1854).

Phaiopicus pectoralis (non Lath.), Malh. Monogr. Pict. ii. p. 8, pl. xlvii. figs. 5, 6 (1862).

Picus brunneus, Sundev. Consp. Av. Picin. p. 91 (1866).

Meiglyptes marginatus, Reinw. MS. (1821); Stoliczka, J. A. S. B. xxxix. p. 277 (1870).

Meiglyptes tukki, Salvad. Ucc. Born. p. 57 (1874); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1875, p. 103; Hume, Str. F. 1875, p. 319; Sharpe, Ibis, 1876, p. 36; Tweed. op. cit. 1877, p. 290; Hume & Davison, Str. F. 1878, p. 132; Hume, op. cit. 1879, p. 52; Sharpe, Ibis, 1879, p. 243; id. P. Z. S. 1881, p. 792; Nicholson, Ibis, 1882, p. 55; Oates, B. Brit. Burm. ii. p. 61 (1883).

Picus tukki, Giebel, Thes. Orn. p. 183 (1876).

Meiglyptes tucci, Brügg. Abhandl. nat. Ver. Bremen, v. p. 455 (1877).

Miglyptes tukki, Hume, Str. F. 1879, p. 87.

Adult male. Back, scapulars, rump, and upper tail-coverts olive-dusky, with narrow vermicular transverse markings of dirty white and a subterminal blackish band to the feathers; wing-coverts like the back, except those of the lesser series extending along the forearm, these being uniform; bastard-wing and primary-coverts olive-dusky; edge of wing varied with whitish; quills dusky, the outer webs slightly olive and notched with buffy white, the inner webs

notched with pure white ; some of the inner quills narrowly barred with dingy buffy white across both webs ; shafts brown ; tail dusky, the feathers narrowly notched or partially barred on both webs with dirty white, the dwarf feather being tipped with the same ; shafts brown, black at the tip ; entire head and upper part of the side of the neck dusky olive, slightly darker on the crown, and inclining to black on the hind neck ; a broad red cheek-patch, from the end of which is a stripe of clear buffy white covering the lower side of the neck and extending as far as the chest ; chin and throat dirty yellowish white, narrowly barred with black ; fore neck, chest, and breast black, the feathers of the latter very narrowly barred at the tip with dull buffy white ; flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts olive-dusky, with a brownish tinge, barred with dingy buffy white ; abdomen uniform dusky olive-brown ; under wing-coverts and axillaries buffy white, the former slightly spotted with blackish, the latter having dusky bars. Total length 7·3 inches, culmen 1·05, wing 3·95, tail 2·4, tarsus 0·78 ; toes (without claws)—outer anterior 0·6, outer posterior 0·6, inner anterior 0·4, inner posterior 0·27.

Immature male. Resembling the adult male, but rather lighter in colour, the forehead and crown more dusky brown, the feathers tipped with dull red, and having a subterminal blackish band, the red brighter on the forehead ; occiput dusky brown ; malar stripe of a paler and duller red ; side of the head more of a dull buffy brown ; the light patch on the side of the neck buff ; the light barring on the chin and throat dingy buff ; fore neck, chest, and upper breast browner, the two latter barred with dingy buff or pale brown ; underparts, including the abdomen, also browner, and the barring of the whole similar in colour to that on the chest and breast ; under wing-coverts uniform pale buff ; the spots or partial bars on the quills and rectrices larger and broader.

Nestling male. Differing from the older but still immature male in having the red confined to the forehead, and not spreading over the crown, the latter, as well as the occiput, being uniform olive-dusky as in the adult ; side of the head

of the same colour as the crown; malar stripe red; wing-coverts along the forearm tipped with greyish; under wing-coverts uniform buffy white.

Adult female. Resembling the male, but wanting the red malar patch. "Iris brown; legs and feet dull dirty green; lower mandible pale plumbeous olive; upper mandible black; claws pale horny brown." (*Wm. Davison.*) Total length 7·3 inches, culmen 0·95, wing 4·0, tail 2·5, tarsus 0·82.

Immature female. Differs from the immature male in the absence of the red malar patch, and also in having no red on the forehead and crown; the light barring on the chin and throat whiter; distinguishable from the adult female in being generally lighter in colour, also in having the chest and upper breast less black and the abdomen indistinctly barred.

Nestling female. In general markings resembling the adult, but altogether more dusky in colour; forehead and crown grey tinged with green; chin and throat barred with greyish white, as are likewise the breast, flanks, and thighs; the stripe on the side of the neck white, with a yellow tinge; chest black; abdomen nearly uniform; the central pair of tail-feathers not full-grown, being about one inch in length, and uniform in colour, as are also the next two feathers on either side; dwarf feather barred with whitish; the penultimate and next inner feather with whitish spots upon both webs. The soft parts in this species are as follows:—"Legs and feet dull or brownish green; claws a little paler; irides brown; upper mandible black; lower mandible pale plumbeous blue, in some greenish, in many the tip is dark plumbeous, and the base is also, at times, a darker plumbeous." (*W. Davison.*)

I share the views expressed by the (then) Lord Walden ('Ibis,' 1871, p. 165), and do not consider that Latham's description of *Picus pectoralis* agrees with the present species, which will therefore have to bear the title of *M. tukki* of Lesson, this being prior to *luridus* of Nitzsch. The range of this species is almost identical with that of *M. grammithorax*. Mr. Hume says it is rare in Tenasserim, and, according to

Mr. Davison, it is common in the Malay peninsula and on Singapore Island. It has also been obtained in Sumatra by Messrs. Wallace, Buxton, and H. O. Forbes; while in Borneo it has been procured at Sandakan by Mr. W. B. Pryer; Lumbidan (*Ussher, Treacher, & Low*); Lawas River (*Treacher*); Sarawak (*Doria & Beccari*); Jambusan and Tagora (*Everett*); Banjermassing (*Mottley & Schierbrand*); and also at Moára, Teweh, in the south-eastern portion of the island (*Fischer*).

4. MIGLYPTES JUGULARIS.

Meiglyptes jugularis, Blyth, J. A. S. B. xiv. p. 195 (1845); id. Cat. B. Mus. As. Soc. p. 60 (1849); Horsf. & Moore, Cat. B. Mus. E.I. Co. ii. p. 669. no. 977 (1856-58); Hume, Str. F. 1874, p. 471; id. & Oates, op. cit. 1875, p. 14; Hume & Davison, op. cit. 1878, vi. pp. 132 and 501; Oates, B. Brit. Burm. ii. p. 60 (1883).

Phaiopicus jugularis, Malh. Monogr. Pucid. ii. p. 11 (1862).

Hemicircus jugularis, Gray, List Pucid. Brit. Mus. p. 71 (1868); id. Hand-l. B. ii. p. 191. no. 8670 (1870).

Miglyptes jugularis, Hume, Str. F. 1879, p. 87; Bingham, op. cit. 1880, p. 161; Oates, op. cit. 1882, p. 190.

Adult male. Back and scapulars black; rump buffy white; wing-coverts black, tipped with buffy white, some of the median and greater series being barred with the same; a conspicuous and large patch of buffy white extending the whole length of the forearm, also a similar-coloured patch on the edge of the wing; bastard-wing and primary-coverts black; quills black, the outer primary unspotted, the next feather spotted with buffy white at the base only of both webs; the remaining quills minutely spotted with buffy white on the outer webs, the inner with large spots or notches of the same, some of the innermost feathers having the light markings on the inner webs confluent at the base, or with broad buffy white bars across both webs on their apical portion; shafts black; upper tail-coverts, tail, and tail-shafts black; forehead, crown, lores, and side of the face black, the lores being spotted with

yellowish or buffy white, the remainder having narrow vermicular transverse markings of buffy white; a small dull red cheek-patch; occipital crest black, with slight traces of the vermicular light markings which cover the head; chin and throat black, spotted with buffy white; upper portion of the side of the neck black, the remainder buffy white, this colour spreading across the hind neck and forming a broad collar, then running in a broad stripe down the side of the chest; entire underparts black; sides of the body and flanks buffy white, varied with black; thighs buffy white, barred with black; under wing-coverts and axillaries uniform buffy white; "bill and claws black; legs and feet dirty dull green; irides dark brown" (*J. Darling*). Total length 6·5 inches, culmen 0·93, wing 4·05, tail 1·8, tarsus 0·8; toes (without claws)—outer anterior 0·55, outer posterior 0·55, inner anterior 0·35, inner posterior 0·28.

Adult female. Resembles the male, but is slightly browner and without the red cheek-patch; "bill black; irides dark brown; legs and feet green; claws horny" (*Bingham*). Total length 6·5 inches, culmen 0·85, wing 4, tail 1·8, tarsus 0·78.

The colouring of the light portions of the plumage in the above species varies considerably. In three males now before me one has the light patch upon the side of the neck and hind neck, the shoulder-patch, likewise the rump and under wing-coverts with a yellow tinge, another has these parts of a buff-colour inclining to rufous, and the third has the same parts of a buffy white without any yellow tinge. The bird with buff markings has the dark portions of the plumage of a browner shade, and the red malar stripe as bright as in the other two specimens.

This species has a restricted range. Mr. E. W. Oates says:—"In Upper Pegu it is decidedly rare; but occurring as it does both on the Arrakan and Pegu hills, it probably may also be met with on the intervening plains." Messrs. Hume and Davison, in their paper on the "Birds of Tenasserim" (*Str. F.* 1878, vi. p. 132), record the species from Palphoon, Assoon, Meetan, Amherst, Lemyne, Yea, Meeta Myo, and

Tavoy; and in the Appendix (*t. c.* p. 501) they add—"the jungles at the foot of Nwalabo, and the country between this and Tavoy." Capt. Bingham (*Str. Feath.* 1880, p. 161) observes—"though not common, it still occurs here and there in the evergreen forests of the Thoungyeen." Siam has been given as a habitat by Blyth; and in the British Museum there is a specimen (formerly in the Gould collection) from that locality, procured by Mouhot or Schomburgk. Colonel Tickell, in his *MS. Ill. Ind. Orn.*, describes and figures, as a male, a Tenasserim example; the red check-patch has, however, been omitted, showing that he had a female bird before him. Malherbe describes the present species as "less than *M. tristis*;" but his measurements show this to be a slip of the pen. I have examined specimens of *M. jugularis* in the collection of the British Museum, and also in that of Capt. Wardlaw Ramsay. The descriptions are taken from birds in my own museum.

XXI.—*Notes on Woodpeckers.*—No. VII. *Additional Notes on the Woodpeckers of the Ethiopian Region.* By EDWARD HARGITT, F.Z.S.

THROUGH the kindness of Count Salvadori I have recently had an opportunity of examining some interesting Woodpeckers collected by the late Marquis Antinori in Schoa. Amongst them was an example of *Mesopicus spodocephalus*, a species which, at the time I wrote my paper on the African Woodpeckers, I had not had an opportunity of examining. It turns out to be a very distinct species, which I am glad to have the chance of describing, as it enables me to correct at the same time a very serious error which has crept into my key (*Ibis*, 1883, p. 406), for the detection of which I am also indebted to Count Salvadori. By a *lapsus calami* I have placed *M. goertan* and *M. spodocephalus* in the yellow-shafted section of the genus, instead of in the black-shafted section, and I therefore give an amended key to replace my former one.